

10 February 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Members of Task Force 16

SUBJECT : A Summary of our Thinking so Far

1. Since we have not yet discussed the Consultants' recommendations with any persons favoring them, Mr. [REDACTED] Deputy Assistant Director, Central Reference, has agreed to take this position in discussions with us. Pending the results of this discussion, our thinking so far might be summarized as follows:

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We have identified two critical objectives probably held by the Consultants which we feel to be in the jurisdiction of the Task Force. These are: (2) that there should be a central reference point and, (b) that there should be a rational reference program for the Agency. We recognize that the findings of Task Force 11 will have a major bearing on the first of these points. Assuming, however, that it is decided to establish a central reference point, we feel that there are two general approaches to each of these points. One approach is to accomplish these objectives by a means of a central reference organization which includes all components of the Agency having a reference capability. The other approach is through a cooperative program with certain of the organizations having a reference capability remaining decentralized.

2. We feel that the central reference organization would have the obvious virtues of putting all components with a reference capability under one administration, but that it would also have the following disadvantages with regard to the Map Library and the Foreign Documents Division:

a. It would disrupt the organization and working relationships of going concerns; and

b. It would add to the administrative burden of OCR at a time when a great number of changes are being carried out or considered.

3. We believe that a cooperative program, if properly developed, would probably get the results desired by the Consultants without disrupting existing organizations and existing efficient working relationships. For example, a rational agency reference program might be developed by a Reference Policy Committee representing all components with a reference capability and under the chairmanship of the AD/CR.


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4. In the course of our study, we have come to believe that there is a deficiency in the reference service provided by OCR in that there is not adequate linguistic reference service provided for persons using the facilities of OCR. We believe that this deficiency may have been in the minds of the Consultants when they recommended the transfer of FDD to OCR. We feel, however, that through proper recruitment and training of linguistically qualified librarians and other reference personnel, OCR could fill this gap without drawing resources away from the exploitation of foreign language publications now being conducted for FDD.



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